

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moore, Walter E., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Webster N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28788

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fin 1-12-90
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Walter E. Moore house of Webster is located on a 3/4 acre town lot on the east side of Main Street, adjacent to the modern United States Post Office building. A circular drive paved with brick has been developed in front of the house and a driveway runs along the south side to a frame shed visible along the boundary of the property. A wide grassy lawn behind the house slopes to the ravine which backs Webster properties on this side of Main Street. Several large trees dot the boundary lines.

The 1886 story-and-one-half Moore house, of weatherboard painted pale yellow, is three bays wide, one bay deep, and has a rear one story original ell. A hipped-roof porch covers about three-fourths of the front facade and has turned posts and balusters and sawwork brackets. The front door, with original glass pane, occupies the middle bay; one window is on each side of the front door, having four-over-four sash panes and the original shutters. The roof of the house, covered with metal shingles, is gable with a projecting gable centered over the front door. The roof gables have exposed rafters and plain frieze. Above the porch roof, on either side of the front projecting gable, are two small square windows set under the eaves, each having two-over-two sash. The front gable has a prominent double window consisting of one-over-one sash. Front and side windows in the main block have modest pedimental headings, similar to the headings on windows of the Webster Methodist Church, constructed several years after the house. The foundation is brick covered with stucco and painted white.

The Moore house is basically T-plan in design, with an original one-story wing leading from the center of the story-and-one-half section. The one-story extension has a gable roof, now covered with asphalt shingles. Before 1920 a one-story addition was constructed on the south side of the one-story ell. It has four-over-four sash windows with plain headings, and now contains the dining room. A porch with shed roof on the rear has been enclosed to form a kitchen and utility room. One remaining original chimney is brick and interior.

The front door of the Moore house opens to a stair hall, which has a pressed tin ceiling and beadboard wainscot with raised panels. Closed string stairs with turned balusters and a massive newel post of oak rise to the right of the entrance hall. The stairs have beadboard wainscot. To the right of the hall is the parlor, with beadboard wainscot and an elaborate oak mantel and overmantel with mirror. The parlor has fluted door frames with bull's eye ornamentation. To the left of the entrance hall is a bedroom with similar

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beadboard, door surrounds and mantel. The entrance hall leads to a single room in the ell. It, too, has a fireplace, now occupied by a wood stove. This room, now a study and library, opens to the room added before 1920, the dining room. Behind the dining room, the kitchen is a shed-roofed addition opening to a porch across the back of the house. Two bedrooms and central bath occupy the second floor of the front section of the house. The bath has been built out over the roof to the rear. An additional bath has been added to the north side of the downstairs ell, off the bedroom.

Two other contributing buildings remain on the property. A well-house, dating from the time of construction, stands very close to the back porch. It is approximately eight feet square, constructed of weatherboard with a gable roof of wood cantilevered over the entrance. The single door is board and batten. To the right of the well house, at the end of the driveway, is a small gable front shed, at one time used for buggy, automobile or for servants. It is of weatherboard and contains one room.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1886-1922

Significant Dates
1886

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
Moore, Walter E.

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Walter E. Moore house, Main Street, Webster, is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C because of its architecture and under Criterion B because it was for thirty-six years the home of a mountain lawyer and politician who made significant contributions to the history of western North Carolina. One of two attorneys in Webster when he built his house in 1886, Moore served several years in the North Carolina House of Representatives, became Speaker of the House in 1901, and later was a highly respected superior court judge. Moore is perhaps most famous in his home county for his sponsorship of a bill in 1893 which eventually allowed for the provision of state funds for establishing normal departments in high schools across the state. Moore's house is a stylish, one-and-one-half story, five room dwelling. The house is little changed since its construction and maintains its integrity. A small well-house and buggy shed stand just behind the back porch.

Architectural context: The Walter E. Moore house, built in 1886, is a stylish, story-and-one-half house built for a rising young lawyer and his family. In 1886 Moore was one of only two lawyers in the little town of Webster, and he had recently married the daughter of one of Jackson County's most successful merchants and civic leaders. Befitting Moore's role as small town lawyer, the architecture of the house features turned porch posts and balustrades, sawn-work, steep gables and decorative window surrounds which add Victorian-era elegance to this simple vernacular house. The Moore house set the style for several Webster-area buildings constructed after 1886. The slightly pedimented window moldings are seen in the Webster Methodist Church, built in 1888, and in the Cowan-Ensley house, c. 1890 (now destroyed). The T-plan of the Moore house was imitated in the renovations to the L.C. Hall house in 1892, and in the Cowan-Ensley house and the "Sunnyside Farm" house built about 1890 in the New Savannah area adjacent to Webster.¹ The central gable on the front facade of the Moore house was copied in renovations to the Cowan house on the Tuckaseegee River Road after 1900.² Although we cannot know if the Moore house was the first of its design in Webster, it was obviously considered of stylistic importance and worthy of copy, indicating that a successful young lawyer might influence architectural design as easily as he and his family might influence the social mores of the town.

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Politics and Government context: Walter Moore built his house in Webster in 1886 as a young lawyer and occupied it for the next thirty-six years, during which time he made considerable contributions to the political fabric of the state of North Carolina and of Jackson County in particular. He began the practice of law in Webster in 1880, when the town had barely more than 100 residents.³ In 1886 he constructed his house, diagonally across Main Street from the imposing, brick Jackson County Courthouse, and took an active interest in the civic and political life of the county. In 1892 Moore was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives. Always interested in teacher education, he sponsored a bill in 1893 which eventually allowed the state to provide funds for each of the nine congressional districts in the state to establish normal departments in state high schools.⁴ In this endeavor he had the firm support of Jackson County educational leader, Robert Lee Madison, who later became president of Cullowhee Normal School, the forerunner of Western Carolina University. Moore was a Democratic party representative at the National Conventions of 1896 and 1900. In 1901, Moore became one of the very few western North Carolina legislators to date to be elected Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, a distinction that was enhanced by the wide margin of victory - 93 for, 17 against - over his opponent, Rep. Isaac Newton Ebbs of Madison County.⁵ In 1901, Moore sponsored a bill to remove the county seat of Jackson County from Webster to Sylva.⁶ Although Moore spoke against the move several years later, the citizens of the county voted in 1913 in favor of the transfer of the county seat to Sylva.⁷ Walter Moore moved to Sylva in 1922 and was named superior court judge in 1925, a position he held until his death in 1933.⁸

Historical Background: In the early part of this century, North Carolina Governor Locke Craig wrote, "For more than a century the Moores have stood in the front rank of the people of Western North Carolina."⁹ Craig was praising the descendants of Colonel William Moore, a Buncombe County pioneer who received a land grant in the Hominy Creek area in 1787. By 1800 William Moore was considered one of the wealthier landowners of Buncombe County and owned nine slaves.¹⁰ William Moore's three grandsons influenced the political process in western North Carolina from 1887 to 1969, culminating with the election of his great-grandson, Daniel Killian Moore, as Governor of the state from 1965 to 1969.¹¹

William Moore's grandson, Walter E. Moore, was born near Sulphur Springs, in Buncombe County, on October 14, 1856, "...the scion of a sturdy, brave and intelligent stock."¹² He attended a local public school and the Sand Hill Academy, and served an apprenticeship as a carpenter. He used his spare time to study law, walking into Asheville, six miles distant, once a week to study law with Judge James I. Henry. In September, 1879, he began formal study at the law school of Dick and Dillars in Greensboro, NC, and received a license to practice law in January 1880.¹³ He attended court for a week in Haywood County with Circuit Judge David Schenck and proceeded to Webster with Judge Schenck in April of 1880.¹⁴ Here "...he began the practice of law with twenty dollars and two books - the old North Carolina Form Book and Eton's Forms."¹⁵

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On January 10, 1883, Moore was married to Laura Rebecca, daughter of community leader and wealthy merchant William A. Enloe (1832-1917). At 26 Enloe had owned 1500 acres of Jackson County land, ten slaves and real property amounting to \$2300.00.¹⁶ He commanded the Twenty-ninth Regiment of Jackson County in the Civil War, and represented the county in the General Assembly from 1862 to 1864. From 1874 to 1878 he was a county commissioner.¹⁷ In 1897 Enloe moved to Dillsboro where he erected a large two-story building for selling dry goods, notions and groceries.¹⁸ Enloe and the Moore family were active in the Webster Methodist Church.

On October 3, 1885, Walter Moore purchased one-third of an acre on the southeast side of Main Street from A.S. Bryson. He paid \$800.00 for the property. On October 18 of the same year he purchased an additional strip from J.L. Watkins and in 1898 a small tract from Mrs. Hannah Hall to complete the lot on which the house sits today.¹⁹

In 1892 Moore was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives. In 1893 he sponsored a bill at the urging of his friend Robert Lee Madison, noted educator and then the principal of the Cullowhee High School. Madison was eager to establish a program for the education of teachers and encouraged Moore to promote the interest of the legislature in teacher education. In 1893 a bill was passed allotting \$1,500 to Cullowhee High School to pay the tuition of students who wished to teach in North Carolina.²⁰ Later the legislature passed bills establishing normal departments in connection with state high schools.²¹ The normal department at Cullowhee grew to become Western Carolina University, where, in 1924, a dormitory was dedicated to Walter Moore.

In 1901 Moore became Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. That year he introduced a bill to move the county seat of Jackson County from Webster to Sylva. In 1913 citizens of the county voted in favor of the move, although by then Moore had changed his mind and spoke against it.²² He was an active Mason, and in 1897 was elected Grand Master of the state. As such, he laid the cornerstone for the Vance Monument in Pack Square, Asheville. He was also a Knight-Templar and Shriner.²³

Laura Enloe Moore died in 1921 and Moore moved the following year to Sylva. In 1925 he was elected superior court judge and served the 30th Judicial District for seven years. He died in January, 1933, and is buried beside his wife in the Webster Cemetery.²⁴

In 1922 Moore sold his Webster house to L. Theodore Queen for \$2,000.²⁵ The property subsequently passed to John and Linda Morris, who sold the land to Ben and Sue Monroe on October 25, 1984.²⁶ The Monroes have refurbished the house and outbuildings.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Historic Properties Survey for Jackson County, unpublished. (Asheville: Western Office of Archives and History, 1979).
2. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. XI, no. 2, Summer 1985. A photo shows the Joseph W. Cowan home before it was remodeled by his son Lawrence, about 1920.
3. Williams, Max R., ed., The History of Jackson County, p. 116.
4. Van Noppen, Ina W. and John J., Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, p. 175.
5. State of North Carolina, Journal of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, Session of 1901, pp. 11 and 12. The fact that Francis I. Winston, one of the principal proponents of legislation effectively disenfranchising blacks, placed Moore's name in nomination for Speaker suggests that Moore may have supported the measure behind the scenes. It is likely, however, that "Winston's support of Moore was based on agreement over a broad range of issues important to the Democratic platform." See memo from Wilson Angley, Research Branch, to Claudia Brown, Survey and Planning Branch, 4 December 1989, in the National Register working file for this nomination at the NC Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
6. Williams, op. cit., p. 121.
7. Ibid., p. 123.
8. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. III, no. 4, Summer 1976.
9. Van Noppen, op. cit., p. 92.
10. Swaim, Douglas, ed., Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina, p. 12.
11. Van Noppen, op. cit., p. 92.
12. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. III, no. 4, Summer 1976.
13. Ibid.
14. Van Noppen, op. cit., p. 52.

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FOOTNOTES (continued)

15. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. III, no. 4, Summer 1976
16. United States Census for 1860.
17. Williams, op. cit., p. 562.
18. Ibid., p. 117.
19. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 13, page 93; Book 24, page 136; Book 132, page 352.
20. Van Noppen, op. cit., p. 176.
21. Ibid., p. 175.
22. Williams, op. cit., p. 123.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 84, page 451.
26. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 132, page 352; Book 587, page 158.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson County Register of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Sylva.
North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Historic Properties Survey for Jackson County, unpublished, 1979.
North Carolina, Journal of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, Session of 1901, Raleigh, 1901.
United States Census for 1860.
Swain, Douglas, ed., Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina, Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981.
Van Noppen, Ina W. and John J., Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, Appalachian Consortium Press, Boone, 1973.
Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. III, no 4, Summer 1976; Vol. XI, no. 2, Summer 1985.
Williams, Max R., ed., The History of Jackson County, Jackson County Historical Association, Sylva, 1987.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property .79 acre

UTM References

A 17 293240 39113380
Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing
D Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Walter E. Moore house and lot is designated as parcel 0266 on the ortho-photo map of Jackson County, North Carolina, inventory of Real Property, as distributed by the Jackson County, NC, Department of Planning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Walter E. Moore house sits on property purchased by Moore in 1885 and 1898 as recorded in Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 13, page 93; Book 24, page 136, and Book 132, page 352.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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